THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) India imported 2.011 million tonnes of US wheat in 1988-89 at a cost of US $ 323.932 millions comprising FOB cost of US $ 243.362 million and ocean freight of US $ 80.570 millions.

As per prescribed procedure under the U.S. Export Enhancement Programme, the purchase team sent from Department of Food, New Delhi, held protracted negotiations with U.S. Department of Agriculture when the prices, quantities of different varieties, specifications and the delivery schedule were decided. The quantities to be purchased from each supplier and the delivery schedule, including load ports for each supplier were decided and intimated by U.S.D.A., on receipt of offers from suppliers in response to trade enquiries made by the Supply Wing. There could not be any direct negotiations by buyer with the suppliers under the procedure prescribed by US Government for availing the concession under their Export Enhancement Programme.

The imported wheat was supplied by 12 U. S. firms, and Department of Food has no information, if any of the firms had any BOFOR link. All the wheat imported from USA conformed to P.F.A. (Prevention of Food Adulteration) Rules and the transactions did not at any stage reveal anything warranting probe.

Promotion of Ice cream manufacturing by NDDB

1286. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB the promoter of Amul Chocolates and cheese now propose to promote Ice-cream as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 17th January, 1990;

(b) whether Government are aware that DMS was ordered to sell its two large Ice-cream plants which were selling Ice-cream at low prices to school children; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to order an immediate inquiry into these operations?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) NDDB is encouraging dairy cooperatives to diversify the range of manufacture of milk products including Ice-cream in order to enable them handle the increased quantity of milk being procured by them under Operation Flood.

(b) The manufacture/sale of Ice-Cream by Delhi Milk Scheme was stopped with effect from 17-7-1978 in accordance with the decision of the Management Committee of the Delhi Milk Scheme. The two old Ice-cream manufacturing plants of DMS were subsequently sold through the erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

Capacity utilisation of milk powder plants and Tetrapak plants

1287. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite anticipated milk surplus, many of the milk powder plants in the surplus states are not working to full capacity as appeared in the Times of India of the 13th February, 1990;

(b) whether Government are also aware that longlife Tetrapak plants are also not working fully;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the tetrapak machines are either malfunctioning and several are lying unpacked and uninstalled for years;

(d) whether Government are aware that similar surpluses of milk have been occurring during the last three to four years; and

(e) whether Government of Maharashtra had been writing to NDDB in this regard for the last three to four years and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The newspaper report in question is a comment on another news report on the milk